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Directorate of  
Intelligence

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# Terrorism Review

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25 January 1990

Approved for Release  
Date JUN 1999

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This review is published biweekly by the Directorate of Intelligence. Other elements of the CIA as well as other agencies of the US Intelligence Community are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Executive Editor [REDACTED]

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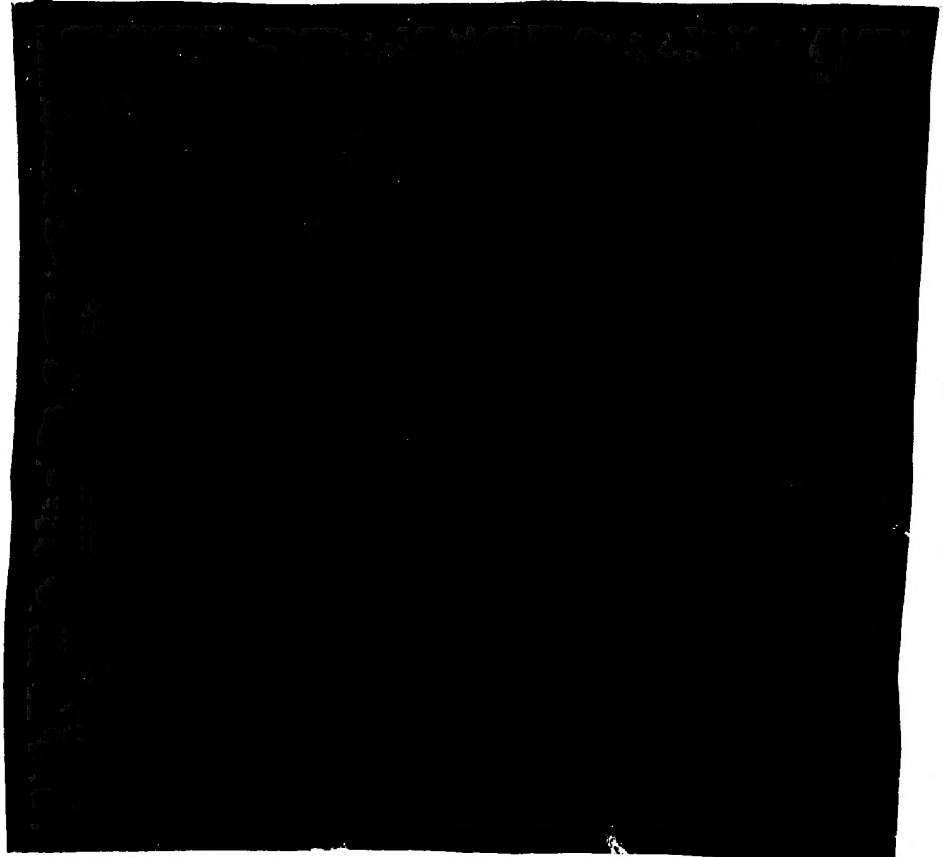
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Focus

Libya: Is Qadhafi Losing Patience? [REDACTED] b3

Qadhafi's dissatisfaction with the results of his relatively moderate policies over the past year and recent political setbacks may lead to an increase in his support for terrorist and subversive organizations. Qadhafi is almost certain to maintain a moderate facade and use subterfuge to mask Libyan involvement in any terrorist operations. Americans and West Europeans in Third World countries would be the most likely targets of any new round of Libyan-sponsored attacks. [REDACTED] b3

Signs of Libyan Restlessness



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#### Hiding the Libyan Hand

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We believe that Qadhafi has improved his ability to conceal Libyan involvement in terrorist operations.

instead of Libyan People's Bureaus.

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[REDACTED]

#### Where Would Qadhafi Strike?

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Even after the September 1989 terrorist bombing that destroyed a French UTA airliner over Niger.

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## Highlights

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### Significant Developments

#### Western Europe

##### Denmark

#### Update on Appel Group Investigation

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##### Turkey

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#### Attack on Saudi Interests

On 14 January, a bomb exploded under a car owned by the second secretary at the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Ankara.

The vehicle—which was unoccupied at the time of the explosion—was parked across from the diplomat's residence. No group has claimed responsibility for this attack. In October 1989 a Saudi diplomat was seriously injured in a car bomb attack in Ankara. We believe this most recent attack was a result of Iranian and Hizballah efforts to retaliate against Riyadh for the execution of 16 Kuwaiti Shia in September 1989.

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#### Middle East

##### Jordan

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#### Letter Bombs Discovered

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[REDACTED]

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**Japan**

**Chukaku-ha Launches Anti-Imperial Campaign**

Rocket attacks against Imperial Household facilities in Tokyo and Kyoto marked the start of a campaign by radical leftists against the imperial system. On 8 January, five rockets fired from a homemade mortar caused minor damage to the Tokyo residence of Prince Hitachi, the Emperor's younger brother. On the same day, four homemade rockets hit the Kyoto Imperial Palace but caused no damage. The attacks coincided with ceremonies marking the end of a year of mourning following the death of Emperor Hirohito. The Chukaku-ha (Japan Marxist Students League, Nucleus Faction) publicly claimed responsibility for both attacks and declared that it plans to intensify its campaign against the imperial system.

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**Africa**

**Sudan**


**ANO Sentences Postponed Again**

A Sudanese court has accepted an application to postpone until 4 March a final determination on the death sentences of five ANO terrorists convicted of carrying out attacks on the Acropole Hotel and the British Sudan Club in Khartoum in 1988. The court had ruled in October that the five would be executed unless the families of those killed in the attack recommended pardon.

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Two of the families reportedly favor lengthy jail terms over executions; one Sudanese victim's family may be willing to accept *diya*—blood money—as compensation. It is still unclear when and how the court will interpret its findings.

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### Austria: Counterterrorist Policy [REDACTED] b3

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Austria has been the venue of attacks by Palestinian, Libyan, and Iranian terrorists taking advantage of the country's lax travel controls. Because Vienna values its role as international mediator as well as its friendly relations with Arab states, it probably will continue to shun harsher measures against Middle Eastern terrorists or their state sponsors.

[REDACTED]

#### The Interior Ministry's Role

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The Interior Ministry is at the center of Austria's counterterrorist efforts. A special section created in May 1988 collects intelligence and makes policy recommendations, and the Ministry's Public Safety Directorate supervises the elite Gendarmerie Operations Unit (GEK).

[REDACTED]

Austria is active in bilateral and multilateral counterterrorist efforts. Besides having security cooperation agreements with most West European and several Persian Gulf states, it belongs to the recently revived Vienna Club of interior ministers and police chiefs from the five Alpine countries (Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland, and West Germany). It also holds

observer status at the European Community's (EC) Trevi Group—the EC's main forum for counterterrorist cooperation. [REDACTED] b3

#### The Terrorist Threat

Although Austria has no indigenous terrorist threat, it has been the venue for attacks by Middle Eastern terrorists against both Austrians and foreigners. Vienna's reputation as an international meeting ground with lax travel restrictions has encouraged these terrorist operations:

- The Abu Nidal organization (ANO) conducted an attack at the Vienna airport in December 1985 that killed two persons and wounded 39. Although the ANO apparently hoped the attack would unblock negotiations with Vienna over three imprisoned ANO members, it failed to force their release. Five convicted ANO terrorists currently are in Austrian jails; three were apprehended after attacks in 1981 and two after the Vienna airport shootings. As a consequence of Libya's ties to the ANO, Vienna forced the Libyan People's Bureau to reduce its size from 22 to eight personnel by late 1986.
- Libya, in addition to supporting ANO activities, has been responsible for other terrorist attacks in Austria. Vienna holds one Libyan operative, convicted of the attempted assassination in Austria in May 1987 of Al-Din Qadamsi, the former Libyan Ambassador to Austria. The fugitive first hid in the People's Bureau but was later arrested.
- Iranian terrorists also have been active in Austria. An Iranian, Bozogorian, was probably responsible for the assassination of three Kurdish dissidents in Vienna last July. [REDACTED] b1/b3

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#### *Iranian Terrorism in Austria*

*The assassination in Vienna of Abd al-Rahman Qassemli, Secretary General of the Kurdish Democratic Party, has been directly attributed to Iranian agents. Past Austrian tolerance of terrorist activities on its soil and the presence in Vienna of Iranian diplomatic and intelligence personnel probably were instrumental in Tehran's apparent decision to lure Qassemli there to carry out the assassination. In the initial confusion surrounding the investigation, Vienna allowed one Iranian suspect to flee the country; a second was never apprehended.*

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b3 [REDACTED] The Austrian Government has issued a warrant for his arrest

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#### *Vienna's Cautious Response*

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Although Vienna is reluctant to antagonize Libya or other states or groups presenting major terrorist threats, it has taken some lower profile, nonaggressive actions. For example, Vienna instituted visa requirements for Tunisians in December 1985 when two of the terrorists responsible for the Vienna airport attack were found with Tunisian passports. The Austrian Government also increased airport security, reactivated regular meetings of the Vienna Club, and concluded security cooperation agreements with Italy and Yugoslavia.

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#### *Outlook*

We believe that Vienna will gradually take a harder line against terrorism and cooperate more with counterterrorist authorities in Western Europe and the United States. Vienna has applied for membership in the EC, and, to improve chances for acceptance, it is seeking closer ties to the member states and adopting policies more in line with the EC norm. Vienna undoubtedly realizes that some EC members—already concerned about the Community's plans to abolish internal border controls in 1992—would have difficulty accepting a new member whose lax travel restrictions could provide terrorists with easy access to the Community.

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### The Kurdish Workers Party: Fighting Back

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The Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) remains a terrorist and insurgent threat despite setbacks in recent years and continuing pressure from the Turkish and West German Governments. In response to Turkey's military campaign, arrests and trials of its members in West Germany, and the loss of its bases in Iraq, the PKK is rallying its forces and rebuilding its organizational strength and bases. PKK leaders have also responded to pressure by publicly threatening to escalate terrorism in Turkey and West Germany. In reaction to internal dissent, the group has carried out assassination attempts against dissidents.

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#### Origins of the Insurgency

Organized by its current leader, Abdullah Ocalan, in the mid-1970s, the PKK has as its primary objective the establishment of an independent, Marxist-Leninist, Kurdish state in eastern Turkey. Although a Turkish crackdown in 1980 limited PKK activity, the group reemerged in 1983 and waged an increasingly serious insurgency in southeastern Turkey until 1987. At that time the PKK changed from attacking rural Turkish military targets to massacring Kurdish civilians in villages the group considered hostile. The central government reacted by consolidating control under a regional governorship of the 11 southeastern provinces; setting up special commando units and a system of locally recruited guards; and improving communications, counterintelligence capabilities, and weaponry. This approach turned the conflict in favor of the government in 1988.

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The PKK has depended heavily on state support—especially for safehaven. The group's most important supporter since 1984 has been Syria.

#### The Challenge Outside Turkey

Problems in West Germany also challenge the PKK. West German authorities have continued to investigate and arrest PKK members following a wave of PKK violence in 1987. Bonn expanded its enforcement powers by officially designating the PKK a terrorist group, and in October authorities placed 18 PKK members on trial for participation in a terrorist organization and a variety of other charges, including murder.

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In response to the legal pressures in West Germany, the PKK has tried to gain public sympathy through demonstrations, sit-ins of West German and Turkish Government offices and buildings, and hunger strikes. Since arrests of some PKK members in 1987, the group has staged some 250 actions in West Germany

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#### *The PKK Outside Turkey and the Middle East*

*The PKK remains strong in much of Western Europe despite the defection of about a dozen leaders in 1988.*

*Most of the leadership not based in Damascus is headquartered in West Germany, where the group is represented by the European Foreign Countries Organization (PKK-AYB). Its missions are to carry out ideological and propaganda activities, obtain financial support, and maintain a backup organization in case the PKK is decisively defeated in Turkey. The PKK-AYB comprises the People's Liberation Army of Kurdistan, the National Liberation Front of Kurdistan, and several suborganizations formed in 1987: the Union of Patriotic Workers of Kurdistan, the Union of the Revolutionary Patriotic Youth of Kurdistan, and the Union of the Patriotic Women of Kurdistan.*

and elsewhere demanding the release of the suspects. Some of these actions have resulted in violent clashes with the police. For example, the opening of a trial of PKK members in Dusseldorf was marked by defendants attacking security personnel in the courtroom, a large demonstration outside the courtroom, and demonstrations in several other European cities.

The PKK also feels pressured by the emerging international stature of legal Kurdish groups; in particular, it fears the competition for leadership of the Kurdish cause posed by moderate Kurdish rights organizations. The first international conference devoted to Kurds, sponsored by the Kurdish Institute and by the Kurdish Rights Organization in October in Paris, drew several prominent individuals and organizations involved in human rights. The PKK refused to participate and mustered several hundred protesters during the two-day conference.

#### *Recruitment—Building Support*

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*Turkish-Syrian Relations and the PKK*

**The Terrorist Threat**

The PKK leadership in Damascus is reacting to pressures with threats of expanded terrorist activity. In October 1989, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ocalan threatened to attack officials of moderate Kurdish rights organizations in Western Europe and Germans in Turkey. He also implied the PKK leadership was considering targeting Europeans in Western Europe.

**Outlook**

Although the PKK has largely recovered from the setbacks it suffered in 1988, it remains in a defensive position and, judging from Ocalan's remarks, believes it must seize the initiative. PKK activities—including demonstrations and terrorist attacks—are likely to increase as trials of PKK members progress in West Germany and when the next moderate-led conference on Kurdish rights takes place in Stockholm in July.



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# The Terrorism Diary for March b3

*Below is a compendium of March dates of known or conceivable significance to terrorists around the world. Our inclusion of a date or event should not by itself be construed to suggest that we expect or anticipate a commemorative terrorist event.* b3

1 March 1878	Bulgaria. Independence Day.
2 March 1956	Morocco. Independence Day (termination of Treaty of Fez).
2 March 1972	El Salvador. Founding of People's Revolutionary Army (ERP).
2 March 1977	Libya. Establishment of Jamahiriyah (Masses' State).
3 March 1961	Morocco. Accession of King Hassan to throne.
4 March 1982	Colombia, United States. Effective date of extradition treaty aimed at narcotics traffickers.
6 March 1957	Ghana. Independence Day.
6 March 1975	Kurdish region. Algerian accord between Iran and Iraq abandoning support of the Kurds.
10 March 1979	Kurdish region. Death of Kurdish leader Mulla Mustafa Barzani.
11 March 1966	Indonesia. President Sukarno turns power over to Suharto.
12 March	Gabon. National Day.
12 March 1880	Turkey. Birthday of Ataturk.
12 March 1968	Mauritius. Independence Day.
13 March 1979	Grenada. Coup d'etat by Maurice Bishop (national day).
14 March 1975	Japan. Chukaku-ha (Nucleus Faction) Secretary General Honda assassinated by rival radical groups.
15 March 1962	Angola. Founding of National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA).
16 March 1921	Armenians. Signing of Soviet-Turkish border treaty that ended Armenian hopes of establishing a separate independent state.
17 March	Ireland. St. Patrick's Day (national day).

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20 March 1956	<i>Tunisia.</i> Independence Day.
20 March 1981	<i>Colombia.</i> Death of M-19 terrorist Carmenza Londono (La Chiqui).
21 March	<i>Kurdish regions.</i> Kurdish New Year.
21 March	<i>Palestinians.</i> International Day of Solidarity With the Struggle of the Arab People of Palestine Against Israeli Aggressors.
21 March 1960	<i>South Africa.</i> "Sharpeville Massacre" of black demonstrators by security forces.
22 March 1945	<i>Arab World.</i> Founding of Arab League (original members: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, and Syria).
23 March 1956	<i>Pakistan.</i> Pakistan Day (founding of Islamic republic).
24 March 1972	<i>Northern Ireland.</i> Beginning of direct rule by the British Government.
24 March 1976	<i>Argentina.</i> President Isabel Peron ousted by Gen. Jorge Rafael Videla.
24 March 1980	<i>El Salvador.</i> Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero assassinated by rightists.
25 March 1821	<i>Greece.</i> Greek Revolution Memorial Day (celebrating beginning of independence from Turkey).
25 March 1932	<i>Iraq.</i> Independence Day.
25 March 1975	<i>Saudi Arabia.</i> Assassination of King Faisal and accession of King Khalid.
25 March 1980	<i>El Salvador.</i> US Embassy attacked by Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) in response to assassination of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero the previous day; since then, FPL attacks have in general been more frequent between 25 March and 6 April than during the rest of the year.
26 March 1971	<i>Bangladesh.</i> Independence Day.
26 March 1978	<i>Egypt, Israel.</i> Peace agreement ratified.
28 March	<i>Palestinians.</i> National Day.
26 March 1970	<i>Libya.</i> UK Evacuation Day (day British forces turned over bases and departed).
28 March 1980	<i>El Salvador.</i> Government expropriates plantations; Salvation Movement of 28 March (MS-28) takes its name from this event.
29 March 1969	<i>Philippines.</i> Founding of New People's Army, military arm of Communist Party of the Philippines.

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*30 March 1974*

*Turkey.* Death of terrorist Mahir Cayan, member of Turkish People's Liberation Party.

*30 March 1976*

*Palestinians.* Day of the Homeland.

*31 March*

*Malta.* National Day.

*31 March 1964*

*Brazil.* President Goulart ousted by military coup.

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# Chronology of Terrorism—1990 b3

*Below are described selected noteworthy foreign and international events involving terrorists or the use of terrorist tactics. These events have occurred or come to light since our last issue. In some cases, the perpetrators and their motivations may not be known. Events and developments that have already been described elsewhere in this publication are not included. b3*

## Western Europe

18 December

*Northern Ireland: Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) plants 270-kilo-gram car bomb near security force members' homes in Rathfriland. The device partially exploded before being defused but caused no damage. b3*

22 December

*United Kingdom: Authorities arrest two PIRA members as they attempt to retrieve explosives cache near Newgate. b3*

24 December

*France: Car bomb damages tourist/real estate office in Anglet. The Basque terrorist group Iparretarrak claimed responsibility. b3*

26 December

*Greece: Dynamite bomb destroys Parliament member's car in Athens. No group has claimed responsibility; the attack fits the method of Revolutionary Popular Struggle. b3*

28 December

*Spain: Gunmen kill two guards during attack on government ministry office in Gijon. The two gunmen have been identified as members of the First of October Anti-Fascist Group (GRAPO). b3*

29 December

*Spain: Bomb damages Ford auto dealership in Vitoria. The terrorist group Iraultza claimed responsibility. b3*

2 January

*Northern Ireland: Car bomb kills taxi driver in East Belfast. PIRA claimed responsibility. b3*

*Northern Ireland: Bomb thrown at Royal Ulster Constabulary station in Stewartstown fails to explode. PIRA claimed responsibility. b3*

3 January

*Northern Ireland: Car bomb injures member of Ulster Defense Regiment in Magherafelt. PIRA is probably responsible. b3*

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6 January

*France: Gunmen attack island resort off coast of Corsica. The presumed members of the National Front for the Liberation of Corsica overpowered laborers, set off explosives, and cut telephone lines.* b3

Middle East

10 January

*West Bank: Masked men explode bomb in collaborator's home in Si'ir, Hebron District, causing heavy damage.* b3

Latin America

24 December

*Chile: Mormon churches bombed in Santiago and Rancagua. No group has claimed responsibility.* b3

25 December

*Peru: Bomb explodes at US-Peruvian Binational Center in Chiclayo, causing minor damage. Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) is suspected.* b3

*Peru: MRTA bombs two Mormon churches in Chiclayo, causing extensive property damage.* b3

27 December

*Chile: Bomb explodes at Mormon chapel in Quilpue, causing minor damage. Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) is suspected.* b3

*Guatemala: Grenade thrown at International Committee of the Red Cross building in Guatemala City explodes, causing minor damage. No group has claimed responsibility.* b3

28 December

*Chile: FPMR detonates bomb in binational center in Santiago, causing extensive damage.* b3

29 December

*Chile: Mormon chapel firebombed in Santiago, and Citibank office bombed in Vina del Mar. No group has claimed responsibility.* b3

31 December

*Ecuador: Unknown terrorists throw two bombs over US Embassy wall, destroying one vehicle and damaging another. No group has claimed responsibility.* b3

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South/East Asia

2 December

*Bangladesh: Bomb explosion in bus in Makikchhari Upazila kills one person and injures eight. Police suspect the Shanti Bahini.* b3

8 December

*Bangladesh: Shanti Bahini kidnaps five persons in Rangamati District. Two of the hostages were killed; three others escaped.* b3

14 December

*Philippines: New People's Army assassinates Philippine constabulary station commander at his residence in Santo Tomas.* b3

Mid-December

*Philippines: Gunmen ambush Pampanga police superintendent near Clark Air-base in Angeles City. The superintendent survived the attack, but his two police bodyguards were killed. No one has claimed responsibility.* b3

17 December

*Pakistan: In Peshawar, bomb explodes under car, wounding one person. No one has claimed responsibility.* b3

*Pakistan: In Rawalpindi, bomb explodes in pick-up truck, wounding three persons. No one has claimed responsibility.* b3

*Pakistan: Bomb explodes near Peshawar travel agency, wounding one passer-by and damaging car.* b3

22 December

*India: Explosion at newspaper distribution center in Punjab injures seven persons. No one has claimed responsibility.* b3

Late December

*China: In Beijing suburbs, bomb damages first car of convoy carrying China's security chief. The security chief was in the third car and was unhurt. No one has claimed responsibility.* b3

7 January

*India: Bomb explodes near Parliament House in New Delhi. There were no injuries, and no one has claimed responsibility.* b3

Africa

12 December

*South Africa: Explosion kills two men, one suspected of planting two limpet mines, at Johannesburg train station.* b3